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say that the annual production of all countries for copper is 200,000 tons, of which the United States furnishes 70,000 tons. The production of copper has more than doubled in our country in the brief period 1882-86; and in 1888 amounted to more than 100,000 tons. The production of lead in the United States is also under-estimated. We have to go back to 1882 to find as low a production of cotton as Mr. Mill reports. The author is misleading in stating under coinage (U. S.) that notes are issued by the Governments of the several states. Considering, however, the great amount of useful information presented in this little work, and the purposes for which it is designed, the inaccuracies quoted should not destroy its general value.

D. R. D.

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## ENGLISH LABOUR STATISTICS.

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*Labour Statistics: Copy of memorandum explaining the progress made in carrying out the arrangements for collecting and publishing statistics relating to labour, as described in Return No. 48, of Session 2, 1886. Board of Trade, December, 1888. London: Henry Hansard & Son. Pp. 13.*

Little has ever been done in England toward the collection of labor statistics. Gradually, however, the demands of the workingmen for official inquiries and information is making itself felt, and in 1886 the Board of Trade was intrusted by Parliament with the commission of organizing a department for collecting and publishing labor statistics. This inquiry was made to include the subjects of wages in England and abroad; savings, prices, hours of labor, etc. Since that date some progress has been made, but evidently the demand for the inquiry is not yet regarded as a very serious one, for at no time apparently had there been a staff of more than eight or ten at work upon it. The present memorandum is principally a communication giving a list of parliamentary papers and notices published in 1883 and 1888 in the Board of Trade Journal, on labor statistics. There is also a statement showing the number of forms issued and returns

made. It appears that out of 78,988 forms sent out to 171 trades there have been replies to but 10,603. It is announced that there will shortly be published volumes on *Returns of Expenditure by Working Men*; *Official Records of Wages for the last fifty years*; and *Strikes and the history of labor questions generally in 1888*. It is also proposed that the *Report on Trades Unions* (1st, 1887, 2d, 1888) shall be made an annual one, and that the *Report on Strikes*, yet to be issued, shall appear annually. It is interesting to note that a large portion of Prof. Richmond M. Smith's *Essay on Wage Statistics and the next Census of the United States*, first presented to the American Statistical Association, and printed in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, is here reprinted.

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## INDEX OF JOURNAL OF ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

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*Journal of the Royal Statistical Society. General Index (Part IV) to Volumes XXXVI to L (1873-87), in continuation of the three previous general indexes. (1) Vols. I-XV (1838 to 1852). (2) Vols. XVI-XXV (1853-62). (3) Vols. XXVI-XXXV (1863-72). London: 1889. Pp. v, 283.*

The Royal Statistical Society has now published the fourth of its extremely useful indexes, bringing the indexing down to the close of 1887. This last publication contains a general index to volumes 36-50 (1873-87) of the Society's Journal, a list of papers read from the commencement, in 1834, to the end of 1887, classified by subjects; and the list of papers arranged under their respective authors. The index is constructed on a sensible principle, so as to aid the investigator in a most helpful manner. It speaks much for the wisdom of the author of the first index that it has not been necessary to change the plan originally adopted. The indexes are thus uniform and easily examined.